

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A monochromatic photothermographic material comprising

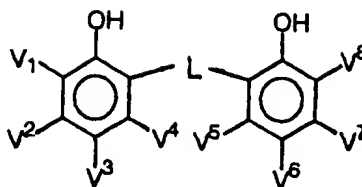
- (a) a photosensitive silver halide,
  - (b) a reducible silver salt,
  - (c) a reducing compound represented by the formula (1) below,
  - (d) a binder, and
  - (e) a compound represented by the formula (2) ~~or (3)~~ below,
- and free from a dye-forming coupler,

wherein the amount of the compound represented by the formula (1) is 0.1-10 mole % of the amount of the compound represented by the formula (2) ~~or (3)~~,

Formula (1):  $Q^1-NHNH-R^1$

wherein  $Q^1$  represents a 5- to 7-membered unsaturated ring bonding to  $NHNH-R^1$  at a carbon atom, and  $R^1$  represents a carbamoyl group, an acyl group, an alkoxycarbonyl group, an aryloxycarbonyl group, a sulfonyl group or a sulfamoyl group, provided that when  $R^1$  is

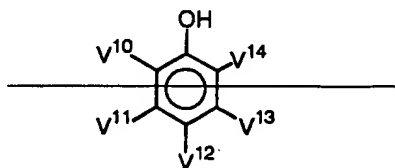
propylcarbamoyl group,  $Q^1$  is not 2,3,5,6-tetrachloro-4-cyanophenyl group,



Formula (2):

wherein  ~~$V^1, V^2, V^4, V^5, V^7$  and  $V^8$~~   $V^1$  to  $V^8$  each independently represent hydrogen atom or a substituent,  ~~$V^3$  and  $V^6$~~  represent hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an alkenyl group, an aryl group, a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group, an alkoxy carbonyl group, an acyl group, a cyano group or a heterocyclic group, and L represents a bridging group consisting of  $-CH(V^9)-$  or  $-S-$  where  $V^9$  represents hydrogen atom or a substituent, and

said photothermographic material is a monochromatic photothermographic material.



~~Formula (3):~~

~~wherein  $V^{10}$ ,  $V^{11}$ ,  $V^{13}$  and  $V^{14}$  each independently represent hydrogen atom or a substituent, and  $V^{12}$  represents hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an alkenyl group, an aryl group, a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group, an alkoxycarbonyl group, an acyl group, a cyano group or a heterocyclic group.~~

18. (Previously Presented) The photothermographic material according to Claim 17, wherein, in the compound represented by the formula (1),  $Q^1$  represents a substituted phenyl group in which the sum of Hammett  $\sigma$  p values of the substituents on the phenyl group is 1.6 or more.

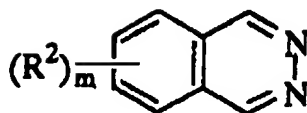
19. (Previously Presented) The photothermographic material according to Claim 17, wherein, in the compound represented by the formula (1),  $Q^1$  represents a substituted phenyl group in which the sum of Hammett  $\sigma$  p values of the substituents on the phenyl group is 1.6 or more,  $R^1$  is a substituted carbamoyl group represented by  $-C(=O)-NH-R^{11}$  and  $R^{11}$  is an alkyl or aryl group having 1-10 carbon atoms.

20. (Previously Presented) The photothermographic material according to Claim 17, wherein, in the compound represented by the formula (1),  $Q^1$  represents a 5- to 7-membered unsaturated heteroring bonding to  $NHNH-R^1$  at a carbon atom.

21. (Previously Presented) The photothermographic material according to Claim 20, wherein, in the compound represented by the formula (1),  $Q^1$  represents a quinazoline ring bonding to  $NHNH-R^1$  at a carbon atom.

22. (Previously Presented) The photothermographic material according to Claim 21, wherein, in the compound represented by the formula (1),  $Q^1$  represents a quinazoline ring bonding to  $NHNH-R^1$  at a carbon atom,  $R^1$  is a substituted carbamoyl group represented by  $-C(=O)-NH-R^{11}$  and  $R^{11}$  is an alkyl group or an aryl group having 1-10 carbon atoms.

23. (Previously Presented) The photothermographic material according to Claim 17, which further comprises (f) a compound represented by the formula (4) on the same surface of the support:



Formula (4):

wherein, in the formula (4),  $R^2$  represents hydrogen atom or a monovalent substituent, m represents an integer of 1 to 6 where  $(R^2)_m$  means that 1-6 of Y independently exist on the phthalazine ring, and when m is 2 or more, adjacent two of  $R^2$  may form an aliphatic ring or an aromatic ring.

24. (Previously Presented) The photothermographic material according to Claim 23, wherein, in the formula (4),  $R^2$  represents a monovalent substituent, and m represents an integer of 1 to 6.

25. (Previously Presented) The photothermographic material according to Claim 17, wherein (b) the reducible silver salt is a silver salt of a long chain aliphatic carboxylic acid.

26. (Previously Presented) A method for forming images, which comprises developing a photothermographic material according to Claim 17 by heating to form a silver image.

27. (Previously Presented) The method for forming images according to Claim 26, wherein the heat development is performed at a temperature of 100-117°C.

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Cancelled)